



# *Iowa Rivers revival*

A stylized graphic of a river, composed of three thick, blue, wavy lines that flow from the right side of the text 'revival' towards the bottom right corner of the slide.



**Mission:** Helping  
Iowans restore, protect  
and enjoy our rivers.





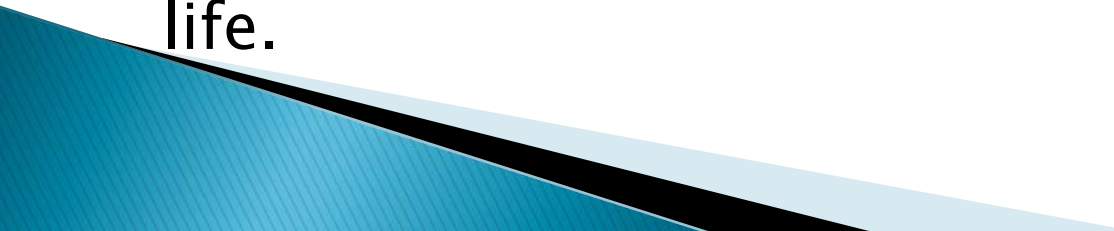
# Voice for Iowa's Rivers

- ▶ River Town/City of the Year Award
- ▶ Master River Stewards Program
- ▶ River Rascals Program
- ▶ Rivers Rocks!
- ▶ Educational Seminars and Conferences
- ▶ Policy and Legislative Advocacy

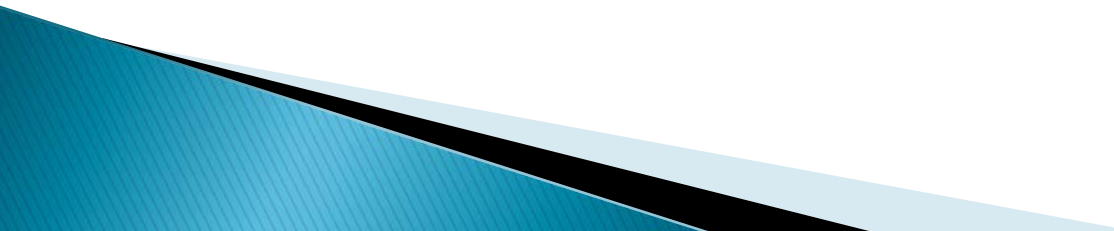


*2012 Bill Signing with Governor Branstad*

# Why Restore Iowa's Rivers?

- ▶ Help Iowa meet nutrient reduction goals.
  - ▶ Address landowner concern for eroding banks and river beds.
  - ▶ Address County and DOT concern for eroding bridge abutments and road beds.
  - ▶ Reduce flooding and mitigate flood effects.
  - ▶ Provide better fish and aquatic life habitat.
  - ▶ Provide better wildlife habitat in the greenbelt
  - ▶ Improve economic development through quality of life.
- 

# How Does River Restoration Work?

- ▶ The complexity of rivers requires a sound restoration plan.
  - ▶ Projects can be designed to serve a variety of goals for the landowner and/or community.
  - ▶ The most successful projects draw on engineering and hydrology, landscape ecology, fisheries and plant science, and involve communities, policy-makers and landowners.
- 

# River restoration can include such practices as:

- ▶ River bank and river bed stabilization
- ▶ Reshape river banks
- ▶ Modify old and unused dams
- ▶ Improve habitat
- ▶ Assessing the potential for river restoration and the best course of action of how a stream could be restored.

# Turn stretches of streams that look like this...



*Photo from the Luther Aadland, MN DNR*



...into streams that look and function, naturally, like this.



*Photo from the Luther Aadland, MN DNR*



# Widening the steam channel to...



*Photo from the Nature Conservancy*

...store *more* water, improve habitat  
and filter nutrients.



*Photo from the Nature Conservancy*



# Charles City – Dam Modification




*Charles City, Cedar River  
Courtesy of Charles City Press*



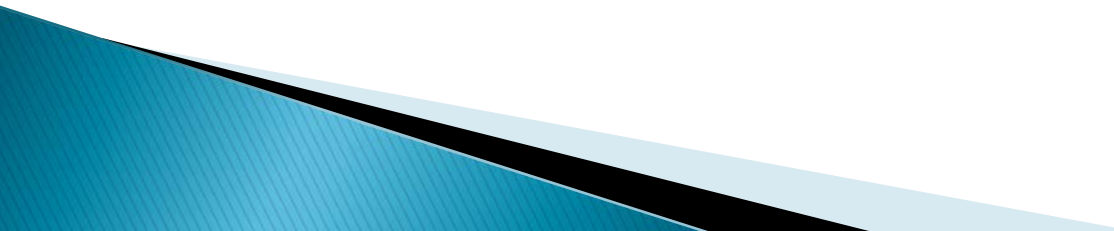
# River Restoration Balances

## Watershed Improvement Plans

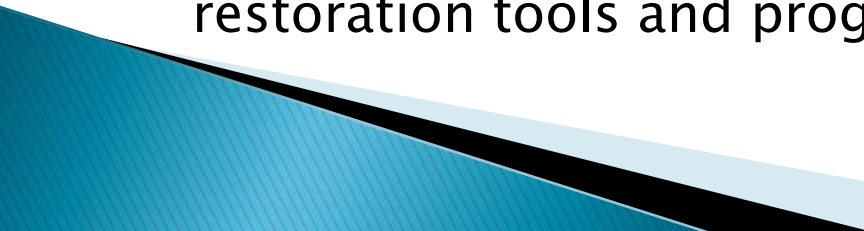
- ▶ Watershed improvement plans help keep the soil, nutrients and pollutants on the land providing cleaner water.
  - ▶ River restoration helps keeps soil and nutrients in the riverbanks and riverbed.
    - *And* provides improved habitat for a healthy river—improving fish and wildlife populations, and further reducing nutrients.
  - ▶ River restoration should be a significant consideration of most watershed improvement plans.
- 

# A Vision for an Iowa River Restoration Program

A River Restoration Program for Iowa should provide a framework for targeted restoration, preservation, enhancement and beneficial use of Iowa rivers.



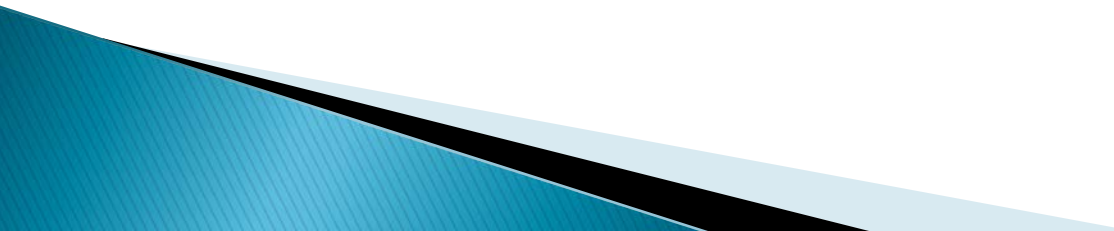
# Elements of a River Restoration Program

- ▶ Partnerships among public agencies, landowners, river users, the public, and communities.
  - ▶ Establish statewide criteria and regional targeting for meaningful river and stream restoration priorities – Incorporate up-to-date science to : determine which restoration strategies work better.
  - ▶ Provide education and training to assist landowners, engineers, contractors, communities and government agencies conducting river-related projects throughout Iowa.
  - ▶ Set criteria and priorities for stream restoration dollars (already being spent as part of federal regulatory requirements).
  - ▶ Research and monitor projects to continually improve restoration tools and program effectiveness.
- 



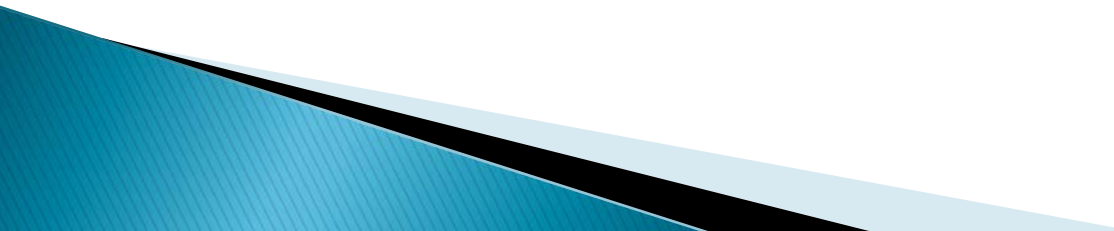
# River Restoration BENEFITS all Iowans

A river restoration process can bring stakeholders together to find common interests in rivers.

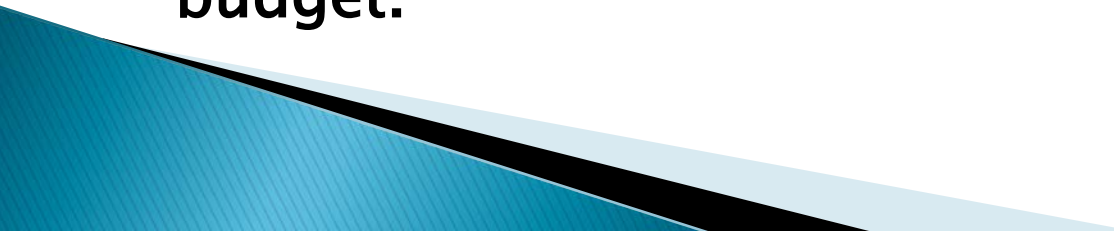
- ▶ Landowners
  - ▶ Farmers
  - ▶ Paddlers, anglers, hunters, and wildlife enthusiasts
  - ▶ Local communities working on economic development
  - ▶ Natural resource management professionals
  - ▶ Agencies charged with road construction across or along rivers
  - ▶ Municipalities – water treatment/consumption
- 

# Interim Committee Next Steps?

Make a recommendation to the Iowa Legislature for a \$300,000 appropriation to the Iowa DNR for staff to research and explore components of river restoration planning.



# River Restoration planning process could include:

- ▶ **Research and survey information** about river restoration through expert testimony, stakeholders, and examples of applied best practices.
  - ▶ **Convene an inter-agency taskforce** that addresses agriculture, transportation and natural resource needs.
  - ▶ **Identify revenue sources** appropriate for a successful Iowa River Restoration program.
  - ▶ Develop a plan that **establishes statewide criteria and regional targeting**, and identify meaningful and effective river restoration priorities.
  - ▶ **Recommendations for a River Restoration program and budget.**
- 





# Iowa Rivers revival

